

Arts and Culture

The Springfield area has a strong artistic and cultural heritage. The Landers Theatre is Missouri's oldest and largest civic theater, and it remains an integral part of the community today. Visibly strengthening the city landscape, the Landers continues to serve as an anchor for Center City redevelopment. Southwest Missouri State University's Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts is a premier facility rarely found in communities of Springfield's size.

As a university town, Springfield benefits from the rich artistic and cultural life associated with three prominent campuses, all with strong visual and performing arts programs.



Strengthened through a spirit of volunteerism and excellent leadership, Springfield has a community theater, symphony, opera, ballet, museums, and many visual arts organizations.

Springfield's arts and cultural organizations employ more than 70 individuals and hire hundreds of contracted artists, stage workers and professionals.

These programs are fueled by tremendous volunteer assistance, with more than 600 volunteers per year.

Increased financial support is critical for the continuance and stability of Springfield's arts and cultural programs. Corporate and business support accounts for less than 1 percent of arts revenues. State support is minimal. These low levels of support are destabilizing and speak to the importance of building endowments, cash reserves, and enhanced



Springfield Art Museum

Springfield's Established Arts Organizations

Springfield Art Museum	Established 1928
Springfield Ballet	Established 1976
Springfield Little Theater Org.	Established 1934
Springfield Regional Opera	Established 1979
Springfield Symphony	Established 1934



Springfield Little Theater

revenues for the purpose of sustaining arts and culture in the Greene County area.

An Arts Patronage Initiative is a project committed to addressing the issue of sustainability for the arts. Located in the historic "Creamery" building in Jordan Valley Park, the Initiative is educating arts patrons on the importance of resource development, planned giving and regional cooperation.

Data	2003
Number of People employed in the arts	71
Number of Arts and Cultural Organizations	43
Number of People Served by Local Arts and Cultural Orgs	228,692
Number of Museums	3
Number of Local Festivals	12
Number of Organizations Offering Art/Dance/Music/Theater Schools	7
Budget Springfield Regional Arts Council (SRAC)	\$211,000
Number of Members/Donors or SRAC	135
Arts Council Activities Attendance est.	96,900
Springfield Art Museum Attendance	39,329
Number of Volunteers at Arts Related Events	611

(Source: Springfield Regional Arts Council/Cultural Plan)